

CONFIDENTIAL

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11 February 1985MEMORANDUM FOR: ~~Deputy Director of Central Intelligence~~VIA: Deputy Director for Intelligence
Deputy Director for AdministrationFROM:
Acting Director of Soviet Analysis

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SUBJECT: Soviet Interview Project

1. ACTION REQUESTED: waiver of regulation requiring Agency prior approval of contract-supported publications.

2. SOVA has requested that the DI Contract Team solicit a proposal from the National Council for Soviet and East European Research (NCSEER) for the conduct of Phase 2 of a totally unclassified research study on the Soviet Union based on interviews of Soviet emigrants--the Soviet Interview Project (SIP). The Agency played a key role at the outset in arranging for Government funding of SIP, and, together with the Department of Defense, has jointly funded Phase 1 of the project since 1981. The project has been warmly endorsed by both Admiral Turner and Mr. Casey. Due to academic sensitivities that no longer obtain, Phase 1 was formally administered through the Department of State, which now wishes to relinquish this role. Phase 2 will support important extensions of the work undertaken in Phase 1 and bring to completion analysis that should significantly enhance our knowledge of Soviet society and institutions. There is no alternative practical way of obtaining this information.

3. However, current Agency regulations stipulate that a contract signed with NCSEER must include the following clause:

"The Contractor agrees to submit any proposed publications or other submissions incorporating part or all of any report(s) required by this contract to the Contracting Officer for review and approval prior to publication."

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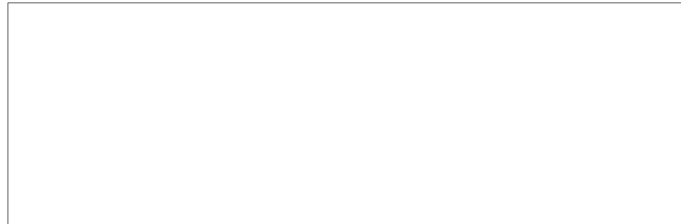
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This clause would also have to be agreed to by the prime subcontractor, the University of Illinois, and by a host of its subcontractors in academia.

4. The clause has already resulted in the rejection over the past two years of Agency contract solicitations of unclassified research by a number of universities--including the University of Illinois. Both NCSEER and the University of Illinois have told us that they cannot and will not accept the clause, and we believe that this is true.

5. A broader review of the issue of blanket application of the prior approval rule, particularly with respect to unclassified work in the social sciences, will undoubtedly take some time. In the meantime, we request a waiver of this rule as it applies to the SIP project. It has been the understanding all along by all parties concerned with SIP that the Government--whatever authority it has over quality control for reports submitted to it--would not have the power to control outside publication of SIP results. All the work is unclassified, and Agency sponsorship of SIP is now public knowledge; there is consequently no security dimension to the question whatever. Agency insistence on the clause would be rebuffed, and the ensuing likely collapse of this large and prominent project would probably result in a several year delay in publishing the findings. Moreover, it would evoke widespread unhappiness with the Agency in academia and difficulty in arranging future collaboration.

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CONCUR:

[Redacted Signature Box]

[Signature]
Deputy Director for Intelligence
APPROVED:

12 FEB 1985

Date

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[Redacted Signature Box]

[Signature]
Deputy Director for Administration

2/14/85
Date

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*I have approved, on a one-time basis, a waiver of our regulation requiring prior approval of contract-supported publications. This approval is applicable to the SIP program. Cognizant technical personnel monitoring contractor performance will apply their best efforts to insure that no classified information finds its way into contractor publications.

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